

CAPSULE SUMMARY**BA-2515****Leola****1604 South Rolling Road****Baltimore, Baltimore County****Ca. 1850****Private**

Leola is located at 1604 Rolling Road in the town of Relay in the Thirteenth District of Baltimore County, Maryland. Constructed circa 1850, the vernacular house originally belonged to Susannah Low and the property was historically part of a tract of land known as "United Friendship." Low was the owner of the property at the time that the dwelling was constructed. Oral history indicates that the house was occupied by Union Troops during their Civil War occupation of Relay, Maryland. In 1867, John P. Richardson purchased the property, later leasing the property for 99 years to J. Newton Gregg. The Gregg family occupied the house for forty-one years, spanning from 1872 until 1913.

Vernacular in form, the rectangular-shaped building is two stories in height and measures two bays in width. Known as Leola, the dwelling is sheathed in vinyl siding and sits on a solid brick foundation. The building is crowned with a front-gabled roof clad in asphalt shingles. It features overhanging eaves, a one-story wrap-around porch, and off-center entry. The house sits on just over one acre of land. The dwelling sits on a grassy lot with mature trees. The property is accessed by a gravel driveway, displays a wooden fence, and is supported by a non-historic shed and garage.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2515

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Leola (preferred); Viola

other

2. Location

street and number 1604 South Rolling Road not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Marlene C. Janis and Michael R. Dugan

street and number 1604 S. Rolling Road telephone 410.242.7390

city, town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21227

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 11415 folio 536

city, town Towson tax map 108 tax parcel 762 tax ID number 1302570590

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2515

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The wood frame dwelling at 1604 South Rolling Road in Baltimore County was constructed circa 1850. Vernacular in form, the rectangular-shaped building is two stories in height and measures two bays in width. Known as Leola, the dwelling is sheathed in vinyl siding and sits on a solid brick foundation. The building is crowned with a front-gabled roof clad in asphalt shingles. It features overhanging eaves, a one-story wrap-around porch, and off-center entry. The house sits on just over one acre of land. The dwelling sits on a grassy lot with mature trees. The property is accessed by a gravel driveway, displays a wooden fence, and is supported by a non-historic shed and garage.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The primary façade, facing southeast, measures two bays wide. The dwelling is clad in vinyl siding and features vinyl corner boards and aluminum surrounds and sills. It features one rebuilt interior end brick chimney and a metal, stove flue pipe. The off-center single-leaf entry consists of a single-light-and-panel replacement door with single-light sidelights and a molded aluminum surround. The façade is also pierced with a full-length 1/1-vinyl window. The second floor features two symmetrically placed 1/1-vinyl windows with aluminum surrounds. All of the windows display vinyl louvered shutters and a metal vent is located in the gable peak. A one-story wrap-around porch shelters the first story. The rebuilt porch is supported by wood posts and features a wood post balustrade, half-hipped asphalt-shingled roof, wood plank floor and a masonry concrete pier foundation with lattice infill.

The southwest elevation measures four bays deep. The non-symmetrical fenestration pattern features four off-center, banked, 1/1-vinyl windows. The first floor, partially sheltered by the wrap-around porch, displays four similar 1/1-replacement windows, arranged in off-center pairs. All of the windows on this elevation also have vinyl louvered shutters. A one-and-a-half-story shed addition extends to the northwest. A two-light sliding vinyl window on the first story lights the addition. It also features vinyl louvered shutters.

The rear, or northwest, elevation is composed of a shed one-and-a half-story addition clad in vinyl siding with an off-center gabled dormer. It is clad in vinyl siding and has a two-light sliding window. The first story features an off-center single-leaf metal two-panel and nine-light door and a pair of four-light vinyl windows. A shed asphalt shingle overhang supported by wood posts shelters them. The northeast end is enclosed. A raised wooden deck with wood post foundation and balustrade extends from the elevation.

The northeast elevation is defined with three off-center 1/1-vinyl windows on the first floor main block, with an additional similar window in the rear shed addition. The second story is similarly detailed. However, an additional window pierces the second floor. All of the windows feature vinyl louvered shutters.

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INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The interior of the dwelling was not accessible at the time of the survey.

OUTBUILDINGS

There are two non-historic outbuildings associated with Leola. Both the shed and the garage are located to the northwest of the main dwelling.

A circa 1980 garage stands one story in height. It features a front-gabled asphalt-shingled roof and is clad in pressed vertical board siding. The building, renovated into a guest house, sits on a poured concrete foundation. A double-leaf, metal, four-paneled and two-light entry accesses it. Two sliding, two-light windows also pierce the façade. The garage also features a wood braced gable end, corner boards, square-edged wood surrounds, and a side single-leaf metal nine-light door.

A circa 1960 shed features a single-leaf, flush, plywood entry. The shed stands one story in height. It is capped by a gabled asphalt-shingled roof and has octagonal-shaped asphalt-shingled siding.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2515

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1850, 1861, 1872, 1913

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1850

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Leola is located at 1604 Rolling Road in the town of Relay in the Thirteenth District of Baltimore County, Maryland. Constructed circa 1850, the vernacular house originally belonged to Susannah Low and the property was historically part of a tract of land known as "United Friendship." Low was the owner of the property at the time that the dwelling was constructed. Oral history indicates that the house was occupied by Union Troops during their Civil War occupation of Relay, Maryland. In 1867, John P. Richardson purchased the property, later leasing the property for 99 years to J. Newton Gregg. The Gregg family occupied the house for forty-one years, spanning from 1872 until 1913.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Although the exact date of construction for Leola cannot be determined, historic maps, deeds, and stylistic embellishments support a circa 1850 date of construction. In 1845, Susannah Low purchased the parcel of land in Relay from William Gwynn and James A. McCullah. This tract of land was historically known as "United Friendship." The 1850 map of Baltimore County shows the property as being occupied by Mrs. Lowe.

When constructed, Leola exemplified the mid- to late 19th century vernacular buildings in Baltimore County. Vernacular buildings tend to have little to no stylistic detailing and are typically constructed by local builders with locally available tools and materials. Vernacular architecture accounts for the majority of the built environment and reflects the traditions of society, rather than the whims of the architect.¹ Throughout Baltimore County, there are a number of vernacular wood frame houses from this period. Vernacular frame houses from this period typically have gable roofs, double-hung sash windows, and front porches. This continuity of form is a result of folk architecture and the reliance on constructing forms that had been built by the previous generation.

¹ Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach, editors, *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, (Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1986), pp. xv-xvi.

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At this time, there were only a few buildings in Relay, located along the Rolling Road near its terminus at the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The Rolling Road is a colonial-era road running from the west end of Catonsville and culminating near Sulpher Spring Road by the Patapsco River. "The roads over which the tobacco was rolled were known as "rolling roads." They followed part of the trails the Indians had traveled and many of the rangers' garrison roads. Winding, narrow, and rough, they were used many years for transporting tobacco. Parts of the present Rolling Road, Old Court Road, and Joppa Road were once rolling roads."²

During the Civil War, the B & O Railroad junction at Relay played an important role in supply routes. In May 1861, Union General Benjamin F. Butler moved troops from the 6th Massachusetts and 8th New York to Relay and occupied Relay House. The Union soldiers "set up camp, planted two large cannon on a nearby hill, and prepared themselves should Confederate forces attempt to advance on Washington from Harper's Ferry. They were also now in a position to block the flow of supplies and recruits to Harper's Ferry, where a Confederate Maryland regiment was organizing."³ The occupation of Relay by Union troops lasted throughout the war, with troops guarding the Thomas Viaduct. According to oral history, Leola was used as a hospital for Union troops during this occupation.⁴

Following the Civil War, Thomas Donaldson, trustee for Susannah Low, sold Leola to Thomas Pindell for \$4,450 at a Circuit Court sale. At this time, the property was approximately one acre. Pindell resold the property as part of a larger sale in 1867 to John P. Richardson for \$9,000. Richardson owned the house for five years before leasing the property to J. Newton Gregg. The lease was established for 99 years with a \$1,000 payment and an annual rent of one cent. The 1877 Hopkins Atlas of Baltimore County confirms Gregg's occupation of the property. However, this map notes the name of the property as Viola, rather than Leola.

During the 1870s and 1880s, the town of Relay became a desirable suburban location, with commuter transportation available on the B & O Railroad. In fact, following the Civil War, a developer purchased lots in the Relay/St. Denis area. He then auctioned off the lots, offering a \$100 bonus to the first customer.⁵ The rapid expansion of the town is noted on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas. Between 1850 and 1877, the railroad junction had grown from a few buildings to over fifty buildings, including the Relay Hotel, the Viaduct Hotel Station, the Avalon Iron Company, numerous dwellings, and a store.

² Helen G. Huttenhauer and G. Alfred Helwig, *Baltimore County in the State and Nation*, (Towson, MD: Board of Education of Baltimore County, 1962), p. 39.

³ Robert I. Cottom, Jr. and Mary Ellen Hayward, *Maryland in the Civil War: A House Divided*, (Baltimore, MD: Maryland Historical Society, 1994), p. 34.

⁴ Baltimore County Vertical Files, Baltimore County Office of Planning, Towson, Maryland.

⁵ Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County*, (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979), p. 158.

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In 1883, J. Newton Gregg sold the property to Edward B. Gregg for \$800.⁶ The Greggs owned Leola until 1913, when the property was sold to Edwin M. and Bertha H. Jenkins. The 1915 Bromley Atlas of Baltimore County confirms their occupation of the dwelling. By this time, the town of Relay had grown even larger, with more dwellings and roadways traversing the area. Additionally, the town now housed the St. John's Episcopal Church, the Matley-Hill Sanitarium, the Relay public school, the Relay Hotel, a coal yard, and the Relay Post Office.

During the 20th century, Leola underwent numerous changes in ownership. In 1932, the property was sold at public auction to Lewis B. Leef for \$6,750. Leola was sold numerous times in the subsequent fifteen years, before being purchased by Virginia Lee Bowen in 1947. Ms. Bowen owned Leola for thirty-seven years. The house is currently owned and occupied by Marlene Janis and Michael Dugan, who purchased the property in 1995.

Chain of Title:

January 5, 1845:	William Gwynn and James A. McCullah to Susannah Low Land Records of Baltimore County Liber TK 349 Folio 156
February 13, 1866:	Thomas Donaldson, trustee for Susannah Low to Thomas Pindell Land Records of Baltimore County Liber JHS 47 Folio 388
September 23, 1867:	Thomas Pindell and Elizabeth Pindell to John P. Richardson Land Records of Baltimore County Liber 55 Folio 411
July 27, 1872:	John P. Richardson Leased to J. Newton Gregg Land Records of Baltimore County Liber EHA 76 Folio 452
June 22, 1883:	J. Newton Gregg to Edward B. Gregg Land Records of Baltimore County Liber WMI 135 Folio 501
December 19, 1913:	Edward B. Gregg and Minnie W. H. Gregg, wife, to Edwin M. Jenkins and Bertha H. Jenkins Land Records of Baltimore County Liber WPC 403 Folio 565

⁶ Although the property had been leased to Gregg, no deeds were located that sold the property to him. However, in the subsequent deed, he is listed as the owner.

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November 10, 1916:	Edwin M. Jenkins and Bertha H. Jenkins, wife, to John F. Hormes and Eunice R. Hormes, wife Land Records of Baltimore County Liber WPC 469 Folio 561
July 20, 1932:	Jesse N. Bowen to Lewis B. Leef, in public sale of the Mortgage of John F. Hormes Land Records of Baltimore County Liber LMclM 898 Folio 397
July 20, 1932:	Lewis B. Leef to Provident Savings Bank Land Records of Baltimore County Liber LMclM 898 Folio 399
November 5, 1934:	Provident Savings Bank to Walter E. Baker and Alice Baker, wife Land Records of Baltimore County Liber CWB Jr. 947 Folio 61
July 21, 1942:	Walter E. Baker and Alice Baker, wife, to Doanld V. Coale and Julia Coale, wife Land Records of Baltimore County Liber GHK 1244 Folio 101
August 31, 1944:	Donald V. Coale and Julia Coale, wife, to Dr. Edgar G. Miller and Virginia W. Miller, wife Land Records of Baltimore County Liber RJS 1359 Folio 373
July 8, 1946:	Virginia W. Miller, widow, to James W. Brown and Elizabeth L. Brown Land Records of Baltimore County Liber RJS 1473 Folio 324
March 22, 1947:	James W. Brown and Elizabeth L. Brown, wife, to Virginia W. Miller (AKA Virginia Lee Bowen) Land Records of Baltimore County Liber JWB 1554 Folio 90
September 18, 1953:	Virginia Lee Bowen and Harry B. Bowen, Jr., husband, to Emma S. Robertson Land Records of Baltimore County Liber GLB 2363 Folio 298
September 18, 1953:	Emma S. Robertson to Virginia Lee Bowen Land Records of Baltimore County Liber GLB 2363 Folio 301
September 21, 1984:	Virginia Lee Bowen to Troy E. Conran and Dawn L. Conran, wife Land Records of Baltimore County Liber 6795 Folio 105

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April 28, 1989: Troy E. Conran and Dawn L. Conran, wife, to C. Michael Whitehair and Samantha Whitehair
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 8167 Folio 798

December 29, 1995: G. Michael Whitehair and Samantha M. Whitehair, wife, to Marlene C. Janis and Michael R.
Dugan, joint tenants
Land Records of Baltimore County
Liber 11415 Folio 536

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2515

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*, Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Land and Will Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland.
Baltimore County Vertical Files. Baltimore County Office of Planning, Towson, Maryland.
Bromley's Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland, 1915.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Cottom, Robert I., Jr. and Mary Ellen Hayward. *Maryland in the Civil War: A House Divided*. Baltimore, MD: Maryland Historical Society, 1994.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.11 Acres
Acreage of historical setting One Acre
Quadrangle name Relay Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property, known as Leola, is located at 1604 S. Rolling Road in Baltimore, Maryland as noted on Tax Map 108, Parcel 762 and in the Deeds of Record Liber 11415 Folio 536, archived in Towson, Maryland. The building has been associated with the site since its construction circa 1850.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	J. Bunting, A. Didden, R. Weidlich, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Inc.	date	February 12, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street, NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

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Continuation Sheet

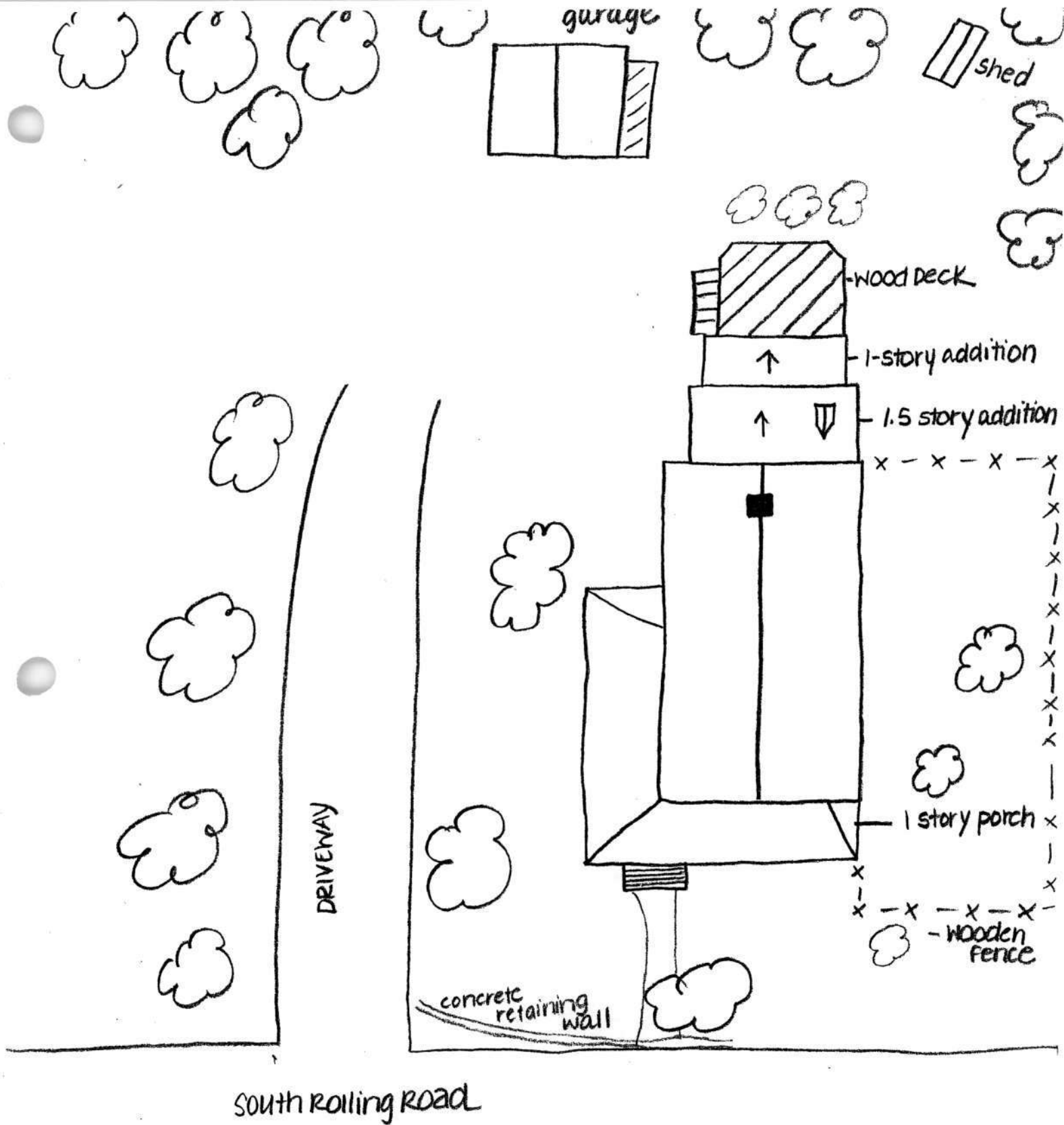
Number 9 Page 2

Huttenhauer, Helen G. and G. Alfred Helwig. *Baltimore County in the State and Nation*. Towson, MD: Board of Education of Baltimore County, 1962.

Scharf, Thomas J. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland*. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, Publisher, 1850.

Upton, Dell and John Michael Vlach, editors. *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*. Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1986.



RESOURCE
* SKETCH *
MAP

BA-2515
LEOLA
1604 SOUTH ROLLING ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
(NOT DRAWN TO SCALE)



5682 IV SE
(ELICOTT CITY)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

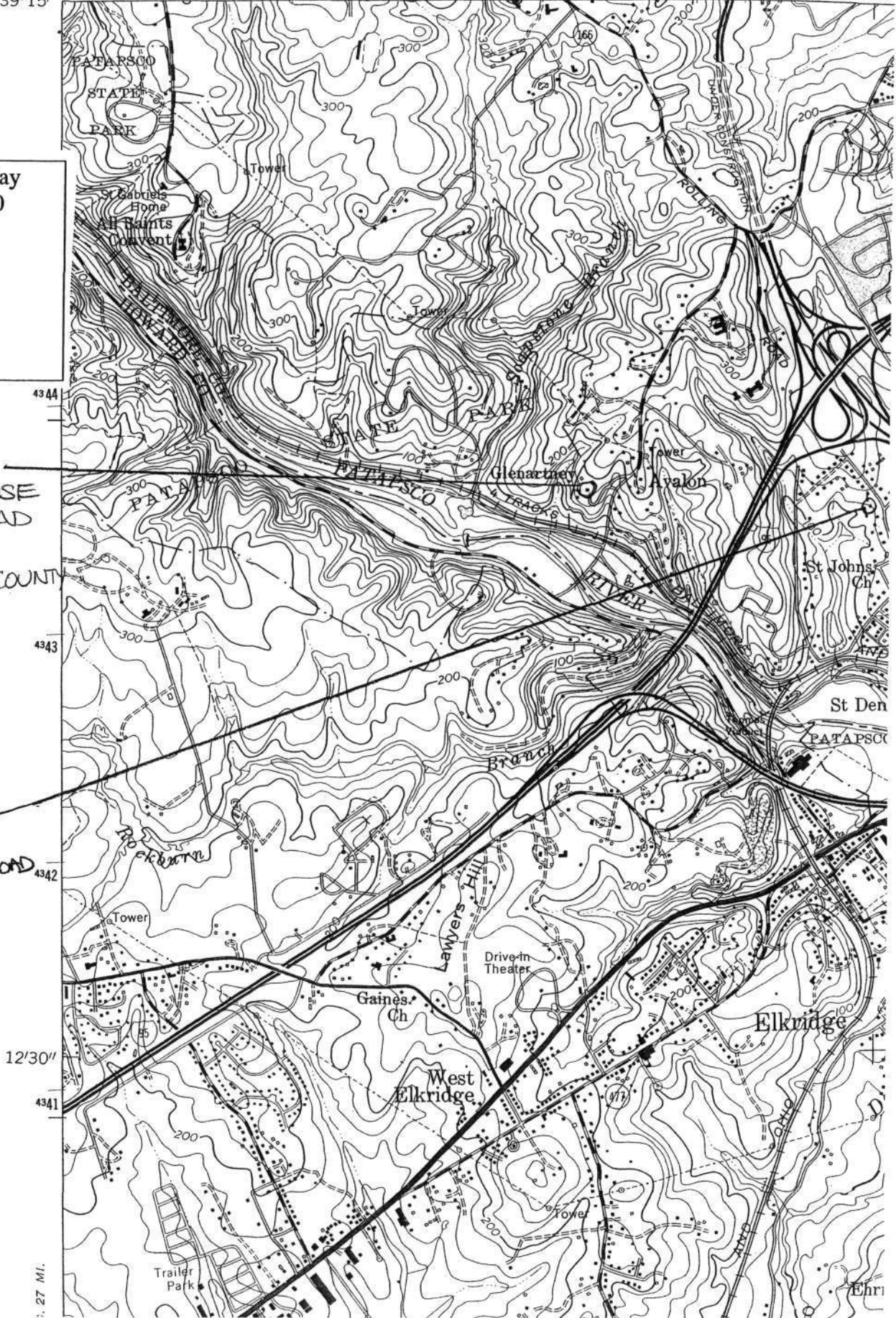
76°45' 39°15' 350000m E 351 CATONSVILLE (JUNC. U.S. 40 ALT.) 1.7 MI 42°30'

USGS Quad: Relay
Scale: 1:24,000



BA-1584
YOUNG HOUSE
324 GUN ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY

BA-2515
LEOLA
1604 SOUTH ROLLING ROAD
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE COUNTY





BA-2515
Leola
1604 South Rolling Road, Baltimore
Baltimore County, Maryland

Traceries
11/00
MD SHPO

Dwelling, exterior view south corner, view looking North



BA-2515
Leola
1604 South Rolling Road, Baltimore
Baltimore county, Maryland

Traceries
11/00
MD SHPO

Dwelling, Exterior view North corner, view looking South

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BA-2515
LEOLA
1604 South Rolling Road, Baltimore
Baltimore County, Maryland

Traceries
11/00
MD SHPO

Dwelling, exterior view Northwest elevation, view
looking southeast

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BA-2515

Leola

1604 South Rolling Road, Baltimore
Baltimore County, Maryland

Traceries

11/00

MD SHPO

Dwelling, Exterior view, south corner, view looking
North

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BA- 2515

LEOLA - ca. 1860 - 1604 Rolling Road, Relay. Frame house dating from earliest growth of this commuter village. Vernacular style, clapboard painted yellow. Legend holds that the house was used as hospital for Union troops stationed on the heights at the rear of the property where artillery could command the Thomas Viaduct. The Union occupation is documented by records and further supported by photographs and magazine illustrations published during the war. This property was labeled "Viola" rather than "Leola" in the 1877 Hopkins atlas. Owner: G. Michael Whitehair.